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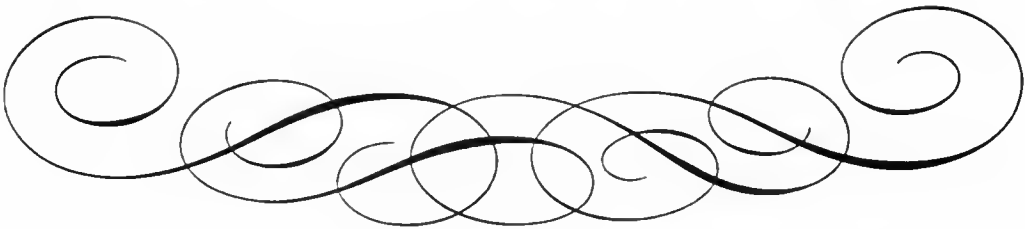
June, 1974

Serial No. 40

A SHEAF OF GRAIN ON THE SHIELD



OF VERMONT RYDER 10



Sequential page 437

A SHEAF OF GRAIN ON THE SHIELD OF VERMONT RYDER 10

(TN-41)

- ● discovered by Sanborn Partridge, Proctor, Vermont
& confirmed by Richard Picker, Albertson, New York;
remarks by ye Editor

While working with a number of Vermont coppers during April of this year, one of our CNL Patrons, Mr. Sanborn Partridge, observed what appeared to be some sort of symbol centered in Miss Liberty's shield on the reverse of Vermont Ryder 10. Careful examination convinced Mr. Partridge that he was observing a single sheaf of grain directly in the center of the shield. This reverse effigy, the seated Liberty, appears on the reverse of Vermont Ryder Nos. 10, 11 & 15, and her shield has always been considered -- by modern collectors, at least -- to be without any design or embellishment, i.e. - blank.

Unable to get confirmation in words or illustration from any literature on the subject, Mr. Partridge telephoned Richard Picker. "He sounded a bit startled", but graciously said ... as one knew he would ... that he'd "check his stock at an early opportunity." Dick examined the specimens in his stock and located one that showed the sheaf of grain -- another Ryder 10 -- and in superior condition to the discovery piece. Dick sent his specimen to ye Editor for photography, and an enlargement of Miss Liberty's shield from the Picker specimen, clearly showing the sheaf of grain, is illustrated on the frontispiece of this issue. The entire obverse and reverse in 2X enlargement are shown below.



The appearance of this sheaf of grain should not come as a complete surprise as there is some slight hint in the literature that such a symbol was suspected, or at

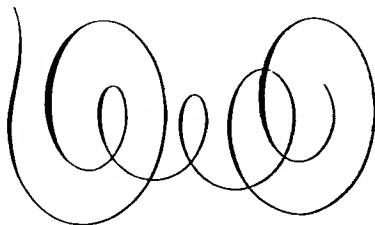
least anticipated, by Howard H. Kurth who, in his introduction to The Copper Coins of Vermont by John M. Richardson writes:

"On most of the coppers of Vermont the shields are British. But here again the "baby head" (No. 9) is an exception. The shield on the reverse of the "baby head" bears four sheaves of grain. This interesting detail is often overlooked since on ordinary specimens of the coin the sheaves are invariably worn away. The sheaves may also have originally been on the shields of numbers 10 and 11, but we have not seen specimens fine enough to verify this possibility. . . ."

And so we can see that one or more, probably four sheaves, were thought possible.

Now, there is one important consideration that must not be overlooked. We cannot say at this point in time whether this sheaf of grain also appears on the reverse shields of Ryder 11 & 15 which are from the same device punch as Ryder 10, and so there is no way of knowing - yet - whether the sheaf was hand cut into the reverse die for Ryder 10 or whether it appeared on the device punch. It could be argued that the obverse and reverse device punches, which numismatic tradition contends are the same as those used for most of the Connecticut coppers of 1786 -- that the reverse device punch exhibited a blank shield, and therefore the sheaf of grain must have been hand engraved on the reverse die of Ryder 10. Herein lies a serious fallacy, for numismatic tradition IS NOT CORRECT! While both the obverse and reverse effigies do resemble very closely those devised by Abel Buell and used on his complex hubs of 1786*, they are NOT the same! They are instead made from device puncheons of unique design quite different in many respects from the central effigies on Buell's complex hubs and were, apparently, specifically fabricated for use on the Vermont coppers. Hence, the oft repeated story of William Buell's journey to Vermont with Connecticut dies must be totally reexamined in light of new information. The details of these Vermont effigies will be discussed in the forthcoming Part III - A Journey to Vermont of ye Editor's series on Abel Buell - Our American Genius.

* See CNL page 424; Part II - The Diesinker of 1786.



In Memoriam

- Damon G. Douglas, 75, of Newark, New Jersey, passed away on Wednesday, February 6, 1974 at Cornell Medical Center Nursing Home, White Plains, New York where he has lived for the past several years. Born in Worcester, Massachussets, he grew up in Jacksonville, Florida. He attended the Cornell College of Civil Engineering graduating summa cum laude.

In 1931 he founded the Damon G. Douglas Construction Co. at the Griffith Building, 605 Broad Street, Newark, New Jersey and over the years participated in the construction of hundreds of structures in the Essex area. Surviving are a daughter, Mrs. Edwin B. Francisco of Susses; a son, Damon G. Douglas, Jr. of Woodstock, N.Y., a sister, Mrs. Edward Winninger and seven grandchildren.

Mr. Douglas was a fellow of the American Numismatic Society and a member of the Standing Committee on United States Coins. He amassed an extensive collection of Egyptian, Roman and Greek coins, and was active in the Historical Society of New Jersey. He is perhaps best known in numismatic circles as a dedicated researcher and author of numerous papers on the subject of early American numismatics. He was a Patron of The Colonial Newsletter.



- Cyril Henry Hawley, 68, of South Road, East Hartland, Connecticut passed away on Friday, June 29th, 1973 at Hartland Hospital. Born in Providence, Rhode Island he lived in the Hartford area before moving to East Hartland 12 years ago.

Before retiring in 1969 he was the owner of Hawley Signs in Hartford for 40 years. He leaves his wife, Mrs. Elizabeth Sherrard Hawley, and two sons, Robert A. Hawley and John D. Hawley, both of East Hartland.

Mr. Hawley was a 25 year member of the American Numismatic Association, receiving the silver medal in 1973. He was also a member of the Connecticut Historical Society; the Hartford Numismatic Society of which he was past president, besides holding several other offices; also a member of the Simsbury Coin Club of which he had held the office of president. He was a Patron of The Colonial Newsletter.

*Letters***LETTERS***LETTERS*

"PROFESSOR" DANIEL E. GROUX

(RF-54A)

- ● from John W. Adams; Boston, Mass.

Regarding Mr. Barnsley's inquiry on Daniel Groux, (CNL, p.435), I am something of an auction catalog buff and have never seen a copy of his work offered for sale. Thus, I would be inclined to doubt its existence. Groux was something of a numismatic ne'er-do-well, combining a genuine interest in coins with an apparent lack of commercial ability. French by birth, he was fluent in four other languages and did translate a number of European works into English for the first time. However, as one of our earliest coin dealers in this country, he conducted a series of auctions beginning in 1848 which had the common theme that they did not realize much money. From all information available, he lived in a constant state of penury and died heavily in debt. An 1874 auction of his numismatic estate brought \$ 1452, a figure considerably less than the monies borrowed against it. While the title "Professor" was in all probability borrowed rather than earned, Groux goes down in my books as an interesting and sympathetic figure from the early days of our hobby.



E PLURIBUS UNUM

(RF-53)

- ● from E.J. Vaskas; Worcester, Mass.

Who was responsible for having the inscription "E Pluribus Unum" placed on U.S. coins? How? When? "It is said that one Colonel Reed of Uxbridge, Mass., was instrumental" in this. (The Numismatist; March 1965, p. 332)

Was this the same Colonel Reed who supposedly struck the IMMUNIS COLUMBIA, New Jersey, and the Immunis Columbia-Eagle (N.Y.)? (Hickcox; p. 79).

Was it the Seth Reed of Uxbridge who petitioned the State Senate and House of Representatives of Massachusetts to be allowed to coin money, copper and silver, with what he represented to be "native ores"? (Crosby; p. 229).



HISTORY OF ST. PATRICK (MARK NEWBY) HALF-PENCE & FARTHING

- ● from Merle E. Bixler; Celina, Ohio

(TN-20B)

No matter how satisfying, plausibility is never proof! With that in mind, I believe that Mr. Breen's opinion about the St. Patrick coins (CNL, p.333 & 299) more nearly fits the known history of Britain preceding and following the restoration than does Mr. Howe's of Houston.

SHIPPING INTERESTS OF MINTMASTER JOHN HULL

(TN-42)

● ● from T.D.Howe; Houston, Texas

All CNL Patrons and collectors of Massachusetts silver know that John Hull was the mintmaster for the 1652 shillings, sixpences and the 1662 threepences but how many know more than this about John Hull?

In "Boston Looks Seaward" * published in 1941 and reprinted in 1970, pp 30-31 we read that:

John Hull, who became the mint-master in 1652, was himself a large owner of shipping. His vessels, the Friendship, the Society, the Dove, the Sea Flower, the Hopewell, the Tryall, and the Endeavor, were carrying his ventures up and down the Atlantic coast and to European ports. He imported English goods and exported tanned hides and other colonial products. His own men cut timber on the Piscataqua for export. In trading with Spain, Hull usually consigned his goods to the ships of John Usher, Boston merchant and bookseller. While Hull's own vessels concentrated on the southern route, his assorted cargoes were often carried by "constant traders," ships that left Southampton or London in the early fall, dropping anchor at Boston between late October and early December. That part of his business correspondence which has been preserved reveals John Hull as a stern Puritan, who insisted that his seamen adhere rigidly to the rules of the church. In written orders, dated September 18, 1671, and sent to John Alden, son of the bashful John and master of the Friendship, Hull concludes,

.. Leave noe debts behind you, whereever you goe, I know you will be carefull to see to the worship of God every day on the vessell and to the sanctification of the lords day and the suppression of all prophaines ...

Punctual in his dealings, Hull required the same rigid punctuality from others. He was extremely jealous of his reputation for honesty. When his cousin, Thomas Buckham, called him a "very knave" in company, the wrathful Hull wrote, --

I can through the grace of God bid defiance to you and all men to challenge any one action in my whole life in all my dealings amongst men since I attained the yeares of a man, I thank God I have dealt honestly not in Craftyness nor in Guile but in the feare of God.

A prompt apology is called for --

...else I shall desire I may have no more to doe with you in this world, for the sin of Backbiteing and slandering is to be hated by all good men.

Nevertheless, John Hull was ingenious enough to make piety show on the right side of the ledger. He became one of the wealthiest and most respected merchant princes of Boston.

*Massachusetts Writer's Program. Boston Looks Seaward; The Story of the Port 1630 - 1940. New York: Library Editions, Ltd., 1970. (Reprint of the Boston, 1941 edition of the American Guide Series.) Library of Congress # 72-126733

PRIVATEERING INTERESTS of CONNECTICUT COINERS.

(TN-43)

● ● from Ye Editor

Mr. Howe's observations in TN-42 regarding the shipping interests of Massachusetts mintmaster John Hull bring to mind the many references to privateering activities of various individuals who later were associated with the "Company for Coining Coppers" in New Haven at the principal mint of the Connecticut Coppers. The ships and their owners are tabulated below. Any additions to this listing will be appreciated by ye editor.

OWNERS	SHIP	DATE
James Jarvis & Co. of Boston. (James Jarvis & Jeremiah Platt gave security.)	"Discovery"	March 2, 1781
Samuel Broome and others of Boston. (James Jarvis witnessed signature of Broome.)	"Camberwell"	1781
Abel Buell & Co. of New Haven.	"Porcupine"*	May 19, 1778
Phineas Bradley & Co. (bonded by the captain Daniel Jones, and associates Abel Buell, Phineas Bradley, John Mix, Jr. & Samuel Bird, Jr., all of New Haven, Connecticut.)	"Tiger"	June 1, 1782

* Abel Buell had the services of an experienced privateering captain. In his book Picture Book of the Revolution's Privateers, Dr. C. Keith Wilber comments: "Captain William Stewart of Connecticut, commanding the privateer sloop "Porcupine", was recorded as capturing the British sloop "Fanny". It was noted that he raised the colors of "a white Jack with a red Cross in it and when he came alongside he lowered that and hoisted a Continental pendant." Confusing? Not to a privateersman of any nation! Most vessels carried a trunkful of national flags, and used whatever seemed appropriate at the moment. It was all part of the "ruse de guerre" of privateering.

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PURITY OF LEAD

(TN-34A)

● ● from Merle E. Bixler; Celina, Ohio

With reference to lead as discussed in TN-34 (CNL, Jan. 1972, p.345) in the article by Dr. Sherr & Wm. Anton, Jr., it is interesting to note that the pre-Christian Romans refined lead in quantity to 98%⁺ purity.

THOMAS MACHIN and the CAPE COD CANAL.

(TN-44)

- ● from T.D.Howe; Houston, Texas

Another interesting item from "Boston Looks Seaward" -- on page 181 we learn of another coiner:

The opening of the Cape Cod Canal in the summer of 1914 cut the running time and increased the safety of the "outside" line of boats between Boston and New York and facilitated coastwise traffic to the south. From the earliest days, settlers at Plymouth had realized the possibilities of a cut across the Cape's neck, a fact noted by Samuel Sewall in 1676 and officially recognized by the General Court of Massachusetts in 1697. But the matter was dropped for nearly a century until the General Court in 1776 appointed a committee to determine the practicability of a canal. Thomas Machin, an engineer, surveyed the proposed route and recommended a canal 14 feet deep with two double locks at each end and two bridges, all at an estimated cost of £ 32,146. Nothing came of this, however, and the matter again hung fire. The Federal Government considered the canal question in 1818, and in 1824 Congress authorized the President to cause "necessary surveys, plans and estimates to be made." But no action was taken.



ABEL BUELL'S SONS

(RF-37A)

- ● from Edward R. Barnsley

I would like to make these personal observations regarding the question "Did Abel Buell Actually Have a Son Named William?" which was asked as RF-37 (CNL, Sept. 1972, p. 369).

In January, 1789 Connecticut's General Assembly appointed a committee to investigate "the conduct" of the four individuals authorized to coin AUCTORI CONNEC coppers. On the following April 9th, this committee filed a detailed report of the activities of the joint-stock company these men had set up to carry on the project. The report states that the Company had suspended production on June 1, 1787, and "We do not find that s'd Comp'y have permitted any Person to coin Coppers exept those Coppers herein before Mentioned."

The report goes on to state, as a matter of information only, that the committee knew about two entrepreneurs, not connected with the Company, who had been engaged in private minting operations. One of these men was named Major Eli Leavenworth. The Committee said he cut planchets in the fall of 1788, and "had them Stamped in New York With Various Impressions, Some few of them With an Impression Simular to the Impresion of the Coppers Coined by the Aforementioned Comp'y." Mark Leavenworth and William Leavenworth were two

stockholders in the Company having the same last name, but their relationship, if any, with the said Eli Leavenworth has not been disclosed.

The other private mint operator in 1789 was Benjamin Buell, a son of the Abel Buell who had purchased a one-eighth stock interest in the Company when it was organized on November 12, 1785. The report states: "We further find that Abel Bewel has Gone to Europe, that previous to his Departure he gave his son Benjamine Bewel Liberty to coin Coppers Which Bussiness he is now pursuing and has Just began to Stamp them." Unfortunately, the report does not give the location where Benjamin Buell conducted his coining operation, but quite obviously it was, like Eli Leavenworth's situated someplace outside the State.

Ever since four days after the franchise holders had received their legislative authority to coin coppers there had been a State law on the books imposing a fine of 100 Pounds for each offence of manufacturing unauthorized "Copper Coin of any description or size". But this statute was not enforceable, of course, outside the State boundaries. A bill had been passed by the Lower House in May, 1786 to make it illegal to import counterfeit Coppers into Connecticut, but it was defeated in the Upper House. Consequently, any Coppers minted outside the State could be imported legally into the State. And that is exactly what the Committee report implies that Eli Leavenworth and Benjamin Buell were doing: Legally making illegal Coppers outside the State, then importing them legally into the State.

It is not known if the official Company for Coining Coppers minted any pieces after June 1, 1787. The business of the Company, such as it was, suspended as of June 15, 1789 by edict of a Special Resolution of the General Assembly. This was 16 months before expiration of the original five year franchise granted by the State.

In none of the references quoted by S.S.Crosby in his Connecticut chapter of "Early Coins of America" is there any mention of the name William Buell. However, the Vermont chapter of this book does quote several correspondents in 1855 and 1856 (one of them being a grandson of Abel Buell himself) as saying that a son of Abel Buell named William Buell removed the manufactory from New Haven to Rupert, taking along with him the original dies used by his father. Here, William is alleged to have become involved in the clandestine coinage of the Vermont mint.

In none of the references quoted by Mr. Crosby in his Vermont chapter is there any mention of the name of Benjamin Buell. Because Lawrence C. Wroth's biography "Abel Buell of Connecticut" fails to mention the son William Buell, there is no reason to presume that the investigating Committee erred in its April 9, 1789 report by recording William's name as Benjamin.

Therefore, I see not the slightest reason to postulate on the basis of existing information that Benjamine Buell and William Buell, hereto considered as brothers, were actually the same individual. And this is my answer to the question raised in RF-37.

More Letters



AN OUTSTANDING COLLECTION OF CONNECTICUT COPPERS (TN-45) ● ● from Walter H. Breen

What is beyond doubt one of the finest and most comprehensive collections of Connecticut coppers of 1785 - 1788 ever to be publicly offered has been obtained by Pine Tree Rare Coin Auctions, Inc. to be scheduled for auction during late 1974.

Assembled from the best coins in the Craige and Bryant estates, there are some 314 pieces in all, representing over 90% of the varieties known to exist, and including more than half a dozen unknown to Miller, and at least 17 lacking from the Canfield-ANS collection. Many of the varieties were conspicuously absent from the Miller sale (1920), the New Netherlands 51st & 60th auctions, the Massachusetts Historical Society auction and other public offerings during the last fifty years. Few comprehensive collections of Connecticut coppers have ever been publicly offered, partly because in earlier years collectors of this difficult series were a tiny ingroup preferring to deal among themselves and to cherry-pick rarities from unattributed lots, partly because of the intrinsic difficulty of assembling quality collections -- in that the average condition of coins of this colony is so low (Fair to Very Good) as to discourage public interest even in the most fabulous rarities. The present offering, however, is rich in exceptionally high-quality specimens.

For the year 1785 there are some 28 different varieties, 25 with mailed bust right, 3 with bust left. One of these (known as 3.1-F.3) is a muling unknown to Miller, discovered about 1951, and one of less than five reported to exist. Of the known-to-Miller varieties, there are at least six which come close to extremely fine condition, almost unheard-of for Connecticut of this date. Two of these, Miller 4.4-C and 6.3-G.1, came from the famed Stepney Hoard -- buried about 1790 and dug up about 1950; this hoard is extensively represented among the 1786-7-8 dates. The "African Head" variety is considerably superior to the Taxay Plate coin, and is bound to attract considerable attention among those who collect by the "Red Book." The three bust left varieties -- all very rare -- range from fine to very fine in grade, the one with colons in the obverse legend (Miller 8-D) being not only the rarest of the three but also the finest ever publicly offered and possibly finest known.

For the year 1786 there are some 36 varieties, six bust right coins (all from the Rahway, N.J. mint, from dies by James F. Atlee, clandestinely made in small quantities as a circulating medium on which Messrs. Cox and Goadsby did not have to pay taxes to the New Jersey Treasurer), 28 with mailed bust left, two with

draped bust left. The six bust right coins are an exceptionally difficult group, only one variety being less than very rare. The famous Large Head (Miller 1-A) is a splendidly lustrous extremely fine, possibly from the Stepney Hoard before the inventory was made, and beyond any conceivable doubt the finest known by a wide margin. The Miller 2.2-D.2, long known only by the Miller illustration (badly worn without visible date), is a nice bold specimen with clear date and again is believed to be the finest known of possibly 5 or 6 survivors; Miller specified that the variety normally comes on small flans not showing the date. Only one of this group rates less than full fine condition, and the exception, Miller 3-D.4, is almost unattainable in any condition.

Among the mailed bust left coins, only a few highlights can be mentioned: 4.2-S, unknown to Miller, apparently the discovery coin, ex Norman Bryant estate; 5.2-L, almost EF, ex Stepney Hoard, lacking in ANS; 5.3-B.2, the rarest of the three Hercules Heads, VF, finest seen and also not in ANS; 5.8-F, very rare, ex Stepney Hoard, uncirculated with some mint red, weakly struck; 5.9-L, Rarity 8, fine to very fine, first offered; 5.14-S, Rarity 7 and first published in the supplement to Miller (1920), fine, and possibly ex Stepney Hoard, really a type coin as the reverse shows a militant goddess wearing a sword (the hilt is plain below pole arm).

The pair of draped bust left coins deserves more detailed comment. Despite comparatively low "Red Book" pricing, both varieties (Miller 6-K and 7-K) are very rare, nearly or quite R-7, and even the less rare of the pair, 6-K, is all but unknown with a clear date -- the present coin being VF with full date and certainly one of the finest overall.

Of the eight known mailed bust right varieties of 1787, the present collection includes six: the regularly seen Small Head with ETLIB INDE, better than VF; the rare (low R-7?) Small Head with INDE ETLIB, nearly fine; a nearly VF Muttonhead, finer than the Taxay Plate coin; the 1.3-L, made by Walter Mould at the Morristown, N.J. mint, also R-7, VG and likewise finer than the Taxay Plate coin; and the 52-G.1 and 52-G.2, R-7 and R-8, the latter thought to be unique.

The mailed bust left coins include, among other outstanding pieces, an almost VF Hercules Head; a 3-G.1 (R-7, made at Machin's Mill), about VF; the Dr. Hall specimen of 5-P, really a type coin (branch divides IN DE); VF's of the popular Horned Bust and Laughing Heads; a VF 1787 over 88 (corrected error), a 9-R, almost R-7; an almost VF CONNECT with the same reverse, fully R-7; an almost EF CONNECT with normal reverse (15-F), and a better VF CONNECT with the INDL or "Fatal Break" reverse, 15-S, high R-6. The other variety with branch dividing IN DE and the corrected blunder 1787 over 1877, 12-Q, possibly R-6, is here represented by a fully EF specimen, one of the finest known. The 11.3-K, R-7 though belived unique by Miller, is here represented by one with a very heavy unpublished die break.

The draped busts, representing the majority of all Connecticuts, here include too many highlights to list in detail. The 16.5-p, for instance, R-7 and lacking in ANS, is apparently the unique lightly double struck example which misled Miller into his description of "16.5-u", not otherwise known to exist. The exceedingly rare 28-n is better than fine; the 29.1-a.2, lacking in ANS and also R-7, is fully VF. The 33.10-W.6, borderline R-8, is almost VF and apparently finest known, as are the equally rare 33.21-Z.13 and 33.13-ff.1 (none in ANS). Three varieties discovered by the late J.K. Richardson, formerly believed unique and still nearly so, are 33.19-Z.4, 33.21-k.4 and 33.21-EE. The Dr. Hall, Brand example of 33.17-r.5, high R-7, is a lustrous VF and an unquestioned finest known. Several other varieties lacking in ANS and of equal rarity include 33.20-Z.11, Fine; 33.24-Z.10, nearly Fine with unpublished heavy break; 33.30-SS, VG but bold enough to show that the cinquefoils were mostly altered at the mint from crosses; 33.35-Z.9, Fine; 33.36-T.3, unique, about VF; 33.36-SS, Fine+ and one of possibly three known; 33.47-TT and 33.48-Z.25, both said to be unique; 42-o, the rarest of the AUCTOPI varieties (with ETLIB rather than the usual ETIIB), VG but almost unattainable in any grade; and 48-k.3, VG and probably unique.

Of probably more interest to the average collector are the extraordinary condition items in this group. The 31.1-gg.1 (ETLIR) is almost Unc. with traces of mint red; the 33.12-Z.24, covered with mint lustre with flashes of red though weakly struck, is R-7 and one of the most important of the Stepney Hoard coins; the less rare 33.14-Z.14 is similar; the 37.5-e has considerable mint red, and there are over two dozen others with some claim to EF grade with more or less traces of mint lustre.

Of the nine mailed bust right varieties of 1788, only one (2-D, EF) is common; the 1-l, with small head and Vermont reverse, is exceedingly rare, nearly Fine but dark, and is the original Craige coin pictured in Taxay. The others, mostly overstruck on NOVA CONSTELLATIO coppers, range from high Rarity 6 to high Rarity 7 (the 4.2-R, one of two finest, originally known to Miller only through a piece too poor to permit full description), and from Fine to EF (the 3.2-B.2).

Of the twelve mailed bust left varieties, the extremely rare 7-F.2 is EF with traces of mint red, the almost equally rare 10-C (one of very few known not overstruck on NOVA CONSTELLATIO coppers) is almost VF, ex Dr. Hall, Brand; the 12.1-F.1 is choice uncirculated, blazing mint red, though weakly struck, ex Stepney Hoard; and the very rare CONNLC, 13-A.1, is better than Fine.

The collection concludes with a run of fourteen draped bust varieties, including one apparently unique muling, 16.4-A.2, and one other R-8, the 16.7-P, originally published in the Miller supplement as 15.3-P from a specimen too worn for accurate description; both are VG or thereabouts. The rest are Fine to EF (the 16.3-N), including a nearly unique shattered diestate of 14.1-L.2, ex. Dr. Hall, Brand; the rare CONNLC, 17-Q, is Fine to VF.

This collection, coming at a time when the market in rare and choice Colonial coins is at an unprecedented fever heat, is likely to stimulate widespread collector interest in this difficult series, resulting in record prices. There is no collection to rival this one; there is no opportunity to ever again assemble such a collection.